

PLANT: Silktree mimosa (*Albizia julibrissin*) is a small tree with showy pink and white tufted flowers in spring to early summer, and dangling clusters of legume pods in winter.

IDENTIFICATION: A small tree, 10-40 ft. tall, single or multiple stems, with feathery leaves. Twigs slender to stout, lime green turning shiny grayish brown with light dots, no terminal bud, bark glossy, thin, light brown turning gray with raised corky dots and dashes. Leaves are alternate, feathery, finely divided, and fern-like. Deciduous.

Flowers are showy bright pink, with white, feathery tufts appearing May-July. Light green seed pods turning dark brown in fall and whitish-tan in winter.



Resembles honey locust (*Gleditsia tricanthos*), but leaflets longer. Silktree seedlings resemble partridge pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*), an annual plant with once-pinnately compound leaves.

ECOLOGY: Occurs on dry to wet sites and spreads along stream banks, prefers open conditions, although persists in shade. Colonizes by rootsprouts and spreads by abundant animal- and water-dispersed seeds, and seldom found above 3,000 ft. elevation.

SYNONYMS: Silky acacia.

HERBICIDE CONTROL: For larger trees, make stem injections or cut-treat using Arsenal AC (may damage surrounding woody plants) or Garlon 3A in dilutions as specified on the herbicide label (anytime except March and April). For sapling control, apply Garlon 4 as a 20% solution (2.5 quarts per 3-gal. mix) in commercially available basal oil, diesel fuel, or kerosene with a penetrant (check with herbicide distributor) to young bark as a basal spray. For resprouts and seedlings, apply glyphosate herbicide, Garlon 3A or Garlon 4 as 2% solutions (8 ounces per 3-gal. mix) in water with a surfactant to thoroughly wet all leaves in July to October. Alternatively, apply Transline as 0.2-0.4% solutions (1-2 ounces per 3-gal. mix) in water with a surfactant to wet thoroughly all leaves in July to September. Transline controls a narrow spectrum of plant species. **WARNING:** Arsenal AC can damage or kill plants with roots in the treated area. Always read and follow label directions carefully.

Photo and Text Credit: Nonnative Invasive Plants of Southern Forests, James Miller, 2004, www.forestryimages.org



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